

REMARKS

UPON THE

Louis XIV, King of France

Two Great Questions.

1475

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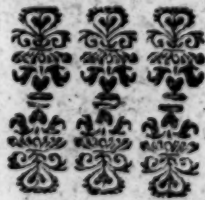
Part II.

WHEREIN THE
GRAND QUESTION of all is Considered,

VIZ

*What the Dutch ought to do at this
Juncture?*

unhappy



L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year 1701.



P R E F A C E

THE Considerer of the Two Questions in his Second Book offers us little else but Reflections upon my Remarks, and such too as savour more of ill Manners than good Reason, which is common with those that write for the Court, and espouse an Interest separate from that of their Country. He avoids all things in my Remarks, which indeed he ought to have considered, by which I perceive he yields the Argument, and quits the most important Points therein contained.

A Man that writes for Preferment, or because he is already preferr'd, is equally to be heeded; and never any Government yet was without Sycophants. But Men, however received at Court, may be Enemies to their Country, as being such that speak, and write, and think only for their Interest; mere Court Engines, who move by the force of such Springs as are form'd by Court-Policy.

I account my self very happy that the chief Arguments of my Book are acknowledged by Men

Preface.

of Sense, and Lovers of their Country, as undoubted Verities; as also that my Antagonist has not found out one Mistake I made, by my depending too much upon Memory.

Speaking of the Pyrenean Treaty, I said, that all the Princes of Europe were Guarantees of the same, but upon Examination I find it otherwise; yet what I there said did not lessen the validity of the Argument. However I hope no Man will accuse me of owning a Mistake, which our Author did not find out; for to retract an Error is a piece of Justice due to Mankind, which our Author is too proud and foolish to own.

R. E.

REMARKS

ON THE

Two Grand Questions.

Part II.

OUR Considerer having written his first Book without any Consideration, is forc't to consider further, how he may make good his former Notions, and clear up his oraculous meaning and super-political Conjectures: He says he's much abus'd in my Remarks; I have misinterpreted his meaning, nay I have not treated him with good manners. And pity it is that an Author as he is, who would put the Nation in a way of Slavery, that scandalizes and abuses our Parliament, that says our Nation makes so mean and contemptible a figure in the World, should meet with such unmannerly Treatment. If he had been pleas'd to have prefix'd his Name to his Book, and told us what an honourable Person he is, perhaps some People might have pay'd Respect to the Ass, merely for the sake of his Trapping: but the Honour of a Man is no more discovered by his Stile than by his Face; and if I knew this honourable Au-

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thor, I should pay him no Respect upon the account of his Quality, his Honours or Preferments, but should treat him as a *FOE* to my Country; and such a Person is an ill Man, however dignify'd or distinguish't.

He says, *Pag. 2.* of his second Book, that I have magnify'd our Nation " to such a degree, as no Man " that is sensible of the power and designs of our " Neighbours, can allow to be so much as rational. If he'l cry down our Nation without Reason, mayn't I cry her up without Reason also? We often run, I confess, into excess of commendation of those things we dearly love. But I don't think I have exceeded either the bounds of Reason or Modesty in the commendation of my Country, nor is he pleased to give one Instance wherein I have done it. He boasts mightily of the strength of our Neighbours, in order to discover our weakness; Alas, can our little *English* Pigmies pretend to encounter these mighty *Goliaths*, these powerful Neighbors of Gigantick Race, the long wig'd powder'd *Monsieur*, the terrible *Don* with his *Spado longo*, and his formidable Ruff about his Neck? Yes, yes, good Sir, don't be in such a panick fear, our Country Folk will give 'em a warm reception whenever they board our Island; we shan't run away as King *James* did for fear of *Laplanders* drest up in Bears Skins: if God Almighty engage 'em not at Sea with a *Hugh de Boves's* Storm, I hope we shall give 'em the same Quarter our Forefathers did the *Poictovins* alhoar.

But this Gentleman is not only sensible of the *Power*, but also of the *Designs* of our Neighbors. Now he's got a Star-gazing again, and who the Devil can tell where

where to have him? If the Stars have given him Intelligence of the Designs of our Neighbours, why does he not communicate them for the common good of his Country? I fancy he's setting up for a Plenipotentiary in some Treaty or other, which will amount to as much as that of the *Partition*. He's a mighty Man throughout both his Books for Treaties and Alliances; and if once employ'd, I make no question, but he might secure our Nation in firm Alliance with the Man in the Moon, being so intimate already with the Stars; and then pray who can hurt us? But I would desire our Alliance-monger, when he enters upon any Treaty, that he does it with a due regard to that common Justice which is due to all Mankind, that he does not infringe the Law of Nations, nor the Rights and Properties of any People, but that he manages his Business so, that the supreme Judg of the Universe may be pleas'd with the Justice of his Undertaking.

He says *Pag. 4.* " 'Tis no disparaging the *English* Nation to say, that as Affairs now stand, they are not a Match for the *French* Power without the help of Confederates. And then from his mighty reading, he gives Instances of Confederacies that have been very advantageous to *England*, and without Confederacies 'tis impossible *England* should subsist, This Man is certainly no Native of this Country, his Thoughts, his Principles, his manner of Expression declares him to be no *Englishman*: he may be the Son of some Confederate Prince upon the *Rhine* for ought I know; but this I am certain of, he is no Friend to the *English* Constitution or Nation. I shall not trouble my Head about his Proofs of the advantage of Confederacies

federacies to the *English* Nation by his Instances out of History. We of this Age are not so proper Judges of Transactions 100 Years ago, as of what has happen'd in our own time; and therefore if this Courtly Author pleases, let us but consider the Treaties that have been made, the Alliances entred into since this Revolution, which are fresh in the Memories of all Men, and of whose advantage they are proper Judges.

The Confederacy that engag'd us to send our Troops to *Flanders*, to fight to maintain the Countrys of other People at the charge of the *English* Nation, 60 Millions of Money spent to preserve Countries, which were none of our own, was a great advantage to the *English* Nation; but by this, says he, you kept the War out of your Bowels, which was a greater advantage than the spending of your Money could be a loss: the *French* King, had he not thus been diverted, would have landed upon you, and set up King *James* again. This is Conjuratation again; this State-Wizard has always recourse to Schemes and casting of Figures; he's a mere political *Hocus Pocus*: who told him, the *French* King would invade *England*, or that we were not able to retrieve our State by the native strength of the Kingdom? which he says *Pag. 3.* would have been a miracle, if we had risen and pull'd King *James's* Army to pieces. I hope he'll own King *James's* Army to be part of the native strength of this Kingdom; for had they been Foreigners, or all *Irish*, we had been in a dismal condition: but what need any rising to destroy that Army, when we had honest *Englishmen* enough in it, to destroy it themselves? I hope our Author (tho at every turn he runs down the *English* Nation) will not say that fourteen thousand 500 *Dutch* Men could have broken

broken that Army without the consent of the *English* in that Army; I can assure him (for I have seen it myself) that afterwards in the Wars abroad, the *English* Gentlemen of that Army behav'd themselves as well if not superior to any Foreigners employ'd in the Service: and I appeal to the Memories of all Men, whether at that time the desertion of the Troops of that Army was not the occasion of its breaking? Had they kept in a Body, and given Battel to the *Dutch* Army without any *English* Assistance, the Prince of *Orange* might never have accomplish'd the business he came about.

He goes on *Pag.* 4. " If our Native strength is so much superior to an Army that 'tis a miracle they did now recover themselves without other helps, then *Ridiculum Mus*, the dreadful *Spectrum* of a Standing Army is lost, and all our danger of being enslav'd is at an end.

Very fine Logick, because a Standing Army did not enslave us, therefore they never will: tho the Native strength of a Kingdom may be superior to a standing Army, yet that Army kept up and disciplin'd, and the Native Strength unarm'd and undisciplin'd out of design; the Circumstances being considered, I say this Standing Army may rob a People of their Liberties. But when I spake of the Native Strength of the Kingdom, it is in order to oppose an Invasion, which is the only Pretext for a standing Army. So that the Question lies here, Whether the Native Strength of the Kingdom, or a Standing Army be most powerful to oppose an Invasion? You cannot tell where the Invaders will land: We have many Ports and Places fitting for that purpose, and your Standing Army cannot be at all

these Places at one time, and an Army divided is no Army at all: But the Native strength of the Kingdom is at all these Places, at all times ready to receive the Invaders, which a Standing Army cannot be. So that I cannot see any use this Gentleman can have for a Standing Army unless to enslave us.

He says in the same Page, " 'Tis always the Interest of *England* to keep danger at a distance; and it has been the practice of *England* to do it by Leagues and Confederacies, as the only proper method.

I don't perceive much danger near us, *France* and *Spain* are a great way off, there's the whole Herring-Pond between us; and if we had two Standing Armies in *England*, would they keep danger any farther off? I should rather think it would bring danger nearer home; for when our Neighbours see us armed in a hostile manner, they'll think we don't raise Men for nothing, and will believe us to be their Enemy by our being in a posture to assault them. But now our Plenipotentiary comes on again with his Leagues and Confederacies, as the practice of *England* and the proper Method.

I wish from his great reading he would give us an account of the method of former Confederacies, whether in former times there were any private Articles in National Leagues; Whether the People whose Purse pay'd for the Support of the League, knew but one part of the League, and the rest was conceal'd from them. If he would tell us what was concerted and agreed upon by the two Foreigners under a Hedg at *Reswick*, we should be better enabled to judg of that Treaty, as well as of the present circumstances of *Europe* since the death of the King of *Spain*. For my part I am

am much at a loss in finding out the advantages of Treaties and Foreign Alliances to *England*; but I am bold to affirm, that private Leagues and Articles are pernicious to any People, because they know not upon what ground they stand, and are not proper Judges of methods for their own safety: I am certain the private League betwixt *France* and King *Charles 2d*, was no advantage to the *English* Nation.

And now at this juncture, who would our Author have us confederate withal? Shall we confederate with one whom neither the Laws of God nor Nature can bind? who breaks through all the sacred Ties of Oaths and Covenants, and sacrifices all humane Obligations to his unnatural Ambition and desire of Empire. Shall we league with the Duke of *Savoy*, who prov'd a treacherous Deserter of the common Cause in the late War, to which he was tyed by solemn Obligation? Can he bind the King of *Poland* from changing his Mind, who has already chang'd his Religion to gain a Crown, and has commenc'd an unjust War against a neighboring Prince? The Emperor and the *Dutch* they must confederate together, their case being the same, as shall be prov'd hereafter; and when it is the business of *England* to confederate, let her do so too.

But before I leave our Confederator, hoping he may in time be a Plenipotentiary, I would beg the favour of him to use his utmost in the next League with *Papish* Potentates, to get the addition of one Article on behalf of the poor persecuted Protestants beyond the Seas, which in former Treaties has been omitted; for when Leagues are made merely out of a vain desire of Empire, without regard to our holy Religion, which we principally ought to mind, we cannot expect

pest the blessing of God upon our Confederacies. Nor does it look well in Protestant States to confederate with such as are avowed Enemies to the true Christian Faith, daily Persecutors of the Church of God, and utter Enemies to the very Principles of Morality and Humanity: to confederate with such Men is to strengthen their Hands, to build up their humane Power, so that the secular Arm may lay the Church of Christ groveling in its own Ruins. Have not the Souls of God's People, slain for their Profession of the true Protestant Religion, a long time groan'd under the Altar for vengeance against their Persecutors, and such as have strengthened their Hands? and shall we again confederate to their utter destruction?

Our Author, *Pag. 6, 7.* comes to vindicate himself from the Aspersions, he says, I have cast upon him in saying, he has scandalized the Parliament by odious Reflections. I never saw a long-ear'd Animal mumble his Thistles after such a manner in all my life, his Hand shakes throughout his whole Book; and well it may, when he has so impudently reflected upon our Parliament, which is our Constitution. He would fain evade his Reflections, and cast them upon another sort of People, whom he mentions *Pag. 6, 7.* And that you may know what sort of People he means, and that there are such a sort of People in the World, I shall give it you in his own Words.

“ I mean the Pamphleteering Club, who have set
 “ themselves to blaspheme God, and ruin their Native
 “ Country, and in Print to sow the Seeds of Misun-
 “ derstanding and Distrust between the King and his
 “ People.

“ The Club where the Blessed Trinity is openly de-
 “ rided,

“ rided, in Print lampoon’d, and shamefully in the Face
 “ of a Protestant Government abus’d and ridicul’d.

“ That Club of Men who pretend to guide Parlia-
 “ ments, and prescribe to them what they are to do; who
 “ are so openly against Force, that they leave us naked
 “ for a Prey, even to the most contemptible Treasons.

“ That Club that sent out a blasphemous Poem lately
 “ under the borrow’d Name of *Clito*, where the Deity
 “ of our Saviour is denied, and then the very being
 “ of the *English* Monarchy undermin’d.

“ That Club that denies *Englishmen* the use of their
 “ Reason, and will not allow that even the Parliament
 “ of *England* can appoint such Powers as are necessary
 “ to our Defence.

“ These are the Champions of our Liberty, that I
 “ directly mean, *who damn all kind of Force as useless*.

“ These are they who have sent out this Pamphlet
 “ into the World, and have brought the Author of the
 “ Two Questions to the Bar of the House right or
 “ wrong; these are the Men who tell us Confederacies
 “ and Alliances are useless, and all Forces oppressive;
 “ that say they are not yet rid of Slavery, because the
 “ King has his Guards left; as if Forces in *England* by
 “ Consent of Parliament, cou’d be a grievance.

“ Who tho they cry up Parliaments, as those by
 “ whom Kings reign, yet will not allow them to be
 “ Judges of what is, or what is no Convenience, but
 “ will have the Lord Treasurer, Lord Chancellor, and
 “ Lord Admiral be nam’d by the Parliament, because
 “ the Word *England* is added to their Titles.

These are a fine sort of People, but I thank God,
 I an’t acquainted with one of them, I belong to no
 Club, never read one Line of *Clito* in all my Life; and

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tho perhaps I practise as little Religion as our Author, I have as great a Veneration for it, and those that profess it, as many in the World. I took our Author to be a Conjuror all along till now, but I will not give a Groat for a Figure-flinger that cannot find out by the assistance of the Stars, who is Author of a Book. I never pretended to Necromancy, and yet I can tell who our Author is as well as *Tom C—l* himself, and yet shall avoid personal Reflections, as a mean Subterfuge from Argument. That he has abused the Parliament is plain enough; the Club he speaks of never disbanded the Army, 'twas the Parliament did it; and I had left it to the Parliament before, and there I leave him still: but I can assure him, many worthy Gentlemen, that have more Learning and Sense than either our Author or my self, say as much; and if he was a little too familiar with our Representatives, because he thought that Parliament would not sit again, that would not have done his business, for Parliaments are our Constitution, and all Parliaments are bound to take care of it.

And if he is angry, because I hint that, for the security of our Nation and well-management of our Fleet, the Admiralty be taken into the hands of the Parliament, I hope he'll be pacify'd when I tell him it has been done already, which he'll find to be true if he consult Sir *Robert Cotton's* Abridgment, where the Commissioners appointed by Parliament are named, as also two Commissions at one time appointed by Parliament, one for the North and the other for the South of *England*, one of which Commissions was under the Citizens of *London*. Now if we have the same Reasons, if we lie under the same difficulties, why may we
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we not pursue the same methods?

Now I will follow him to *Pag. 10.* where he says,
 “ All that I have yet said we ought to do, amounts
 “ to no more than this, that *England* ought to put her
 “ self into such a posture with the rest of her Neigh-
 “ bors, as that she may be able to preserve the Peace
 “ lately purchas’d at so dear a rate, and to preserve
 “ her Trade upon which the whole Nation so much
 “ depends.

This one Paragraph it seems is the Epitome or Sub-
 stance of his whole Discourse: ’tis *Homer’s Iliads* in a
 Nutshell, and if he would have been so kind as to have
 us read only this Paragraph instead of the whole, we
 might have had his whole sense and meaning at the
 price of a Pocky Bill. *England*, he says, ought to put
 her self in a Posture with the rest of her Neighbors:
 now the Posture that all People of the World ought
 to be in is a Posture to defend themselves; and if we
 are not in such a Posture, I know who is to blame:
 nor is there the same reason for *England* to put her self
 into the same Posture with the rest of her Neighbors,
 their Countries are contiguous to the People they fear,
 when ours being an Island, and chiefly to be defended
 by our Shipping, our main defence is our Fleet: And
 I shall very unwillingly give up the Empire of the Sea
 to any Nation in the World, nor need we fear losing
 that Dominion if the Lords of the Admiralty take care
 of that Affair.

And here indeed it could be wish’d that our Fleet
 was in a better condition than at present it is: what
 signifies our having the best Fleet in the World if our
 Ships want Men, or our Men want Victuals? The re-
 gistring our Sailors was a Project well enough for man-
 ning.

ning the Fleet ; but we must not depend too much upon our registred Seamen, considering that Register was mutual Covenant betwixt the Sailors of the Navy and their Country, *viz.* That for 40 s. *per Ann.* they would hold themselves in a readiness to serve their Country on board the Fleet : but that 40 s. *per Ann.* being not pay'd, *Query*, Whether the Sailors are oblig'd by that Act to serve ?

If we want Provision for our Men, then our case is as bad ; which we find we do, when we may read in a late Gazette an inviting Advertisement to any body to serve the Fleet with *Beef, Pork, &c.* Indeed I was really sorry to see that Advertisement upon our Gazette, upon two accounts: 1. Because thereby we have declared to the World our present necessities, and the bad condition of our Fleet. And, 2^{dly}, That some Men employ'd in that Affair, who have by their Employments gotten perhaps upwards of 100000 l. a Man, will not at an Emergency give the King credit for a few Oxen and Hogs ; but I hope our Representatives will take better care of our Navy for the future.

To preserve the Trade of the Nation is certainly our Duty, upon which the whole Nation so much depends. But pray how comes the Duke *D' Anjou's* being King of *Spain* to be a Detriment to our Trade, since our Author says, he'll be pure *Spanish*, and not in the Interest of *France* ? if so, 'tis the Interest of *Spain* to keep up its antient Alliance and Trade with *England*, it being the antient Empory of its Commodities : and if at any time the King of *Spain* should molest our Merchants, or detain their Merchandizes by unlawful Pretexes, we may do our Merchants Justice in that point, without (as Mr. *Bays* in the *Rehearsal* says) coming

coming upon them swop with a Declaration of War, as our Treaty-Author would have us. Mr. *Selden* found out another way; which take in the very Words of his Table-Talk, P. 89.

“ The King of *Spain* was outlaw’d in *Westminster-*
 “ Hall, I being of Counsel against him: A Mer-
 “ chant had recovered Costs against him in a Suit,
 “ which because he could not get, we advis’d to have
 “ him outlaw’d for not appearing, and so he was. As
 “ soon as *Gondimer* heard that, he presently sent the
 “ Money, by reason, if his Master had been outlaw’d,
 “ he could not have the benefit of the Law, which
 “ would have been very prejudicial, there being then
 “ many Suits depending betwixt the King of *Spain*
 “ and our *English* Merchants.

So that you see a Declaration of War is the very last thing to be done, after a due course of Justice is stopt.

I shall pass by all the foolish Reflections of our Author as not worth answering, all his weak Evasions and idle Arguments, and proceed to the Consideration of the most Important and Grand Question: *Viz.*

What Measures the Dutch ought to take at this Juncture.

IT could have been wish’d that the Emperor had been in a condition ere this time to have flung his Troops into the *Milanese*, in order to make good the Title of the Arch Duke *Charles* to the Crown of *Spain*. It is not improbable but the Emperor will venture far to make good his Pretensions; but whether the Emperor be a Match for *Spain* at this
 E Juncture,

Juncture, is the Question. Alliances in some cases are very needful: those things need Props, which cannot stand of themselves; but in case of Alliances those Nations ought to join who may suffer damage by the exorbitant Powers they confederate against. The House of *England* is moated round, and needs not those Auxiliaries of strength which are necessary to Nations contiguous to Enemies upon the Continent. If we go abroad to seek broken bones, and engage in other Mens Quarrels; we become the Bullies of *Europe*, and are every body's Hectors. But since the Emperor is overmatch'd by the Powers of *France* and *Spain*, and the Fate of the United Provinces of the low Countries is depending upon the Emperor's Success, it is unquestionably the Interest of the States General to assist the Emperor in his Pretensions to the *Spanish* Monarchy. For,

1. The *Dutch* have now lost their Barrier, I mean the *Spanish Netherlands*, which a long time have been in strict Alliance with them; their own are become Frontier Towns, expos'd to the Insults of two potent Enemies: the King of *Spain* may (tho unable to cope with them with his Forces in the *Netherlands*) be join'd with the Auxiliaries of *France*, which are now united to him by the double Ties of Interest and Conanguinity.

2. The King of *Spain* may make Pretensions to the Country of *Holland* as an antient part of the Earldom of *Flanders*, and say that the *Dutch* are but his Tributaries, and that want of Power has hitherto been the reason why they have not been recall'd to their Allegiance; and that now enabled by power, he will assert his antient Right. Now if *Holland* at this Juncture does
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not assist the Emperor to give the Arms of *France* and *Spain* a Diversion on the other side, the whole Power of *France* and that of the *Spanish* being employ'd against them, will devour them like an Inundation. 'Tis true, the *Dutch* may open their Sluces, lay their Land under Water, and fly in their Shipping to their Territories in *India*; a poor satisfaction to a People, who have with so much Industry and Cost rob'd even the Sea it self, and purchas'd of their Neighbors a spot of ground, on which is founded the most noble Commonwealth of the World. But what advantage will *Batavia* be to them when *Holland* is lost? the Trade of *India* signifies nothing without the Market of *Europe*; and pity it is to see a Country ruin'd, laid under Water, or wast-ed and conquer'd by an Enemy, when the Treasure of it would have kept it entire to its Inhabitants in its pristine Splendor and Honour.

3. If the States of *Holland* do not assist the Emperor, (I mean with Money, for their Troops must be employ'd in the defence of their own Country) *Holland* must expect to be conquer'd; the same Clouds of desolation hang over the Heads of one and the other, they must fall by the same Power, and subjugate their Necks to the same Yoke. Now certainly is the time for the *Dutch* to grow virtuous, and quit their avaritious stingy Temper: If fatal necessity joyn'd with particular Interest will not reclaim them in this point, *Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat*, they are mad beyond the cure of *Hellebore*, and will die unpitied and unlamented. For what State, so potent at Sea, so formidable, so much interested in the Quarrel, would not run the utmost risk, and spend the whole Bank of *Amsterdam* to the utmost Doit to save their Country?

4. If

4. If the King of *Spain*, the Duke *D' Anjou*, or what you please to call him, (for I don't dispute Titles) being in present possession of the *Spanish* Monarchy, should set up a Chamber of Dependences, and claim *Holland*, as part of the *Spanish Netherlands*, and Earldom of *Flanders*; and the *Dutch*, rather than assist the Emperor, should tamely submit as Homagers to the Crown of *Spain*, their condition would be far worse than if they stood it out to the last Man and the last Penny. What hardships, what oppressions would they then undergo? The Money due to their Troops from *Spain* would then be paid; their Sailors would be made useful in *Spanish* and *French* Gallies; their Landmen and Traders would be employ'd in the Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico*, where they may breath their last over their beloved Idols of Gold and Silver: under these Pressures and exquisite Slaveries the *Hogen Mogens*, the *High and Mighty States* will become again the poor distressed States of *Holland* to a degree past recovery.

5. The *French* King and the other Catholick Princes of *Christendom*, having for many Years design'd the Extirpation of what they call the *Northern Heresy*; now is the proper time for them to make their strongest Effort to that end; and if *Holland* which is nearest concerned, and whose Country is in the most imminent danger, does not assist the Emperor in his Pretensions, the *Northern* Crowns cannot be supposed to be first in such an Assistance, for they have as yet a Barrier, I mean *Holland*: and tho the common Ruin may at length reach them, yet at present it is not so near their doors: but if *Holland* join the Emperor, they may be induc'd to assist them to preserve their Barrier against the growing Powers of *France* and *Spain*; and if those who
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are so nearly concerned upite their Forces and open their Purses, I don't see, as our Considerer says in his first Book, kow either *France* or *Spain* will be one Farthing the better for this Bargain.

5. The condition of the States of *Holland* being such that their whole dependance is upon Trade, it is their particular Interest to be active in this affair; for not only their Trade in *Europe* but in the *East-Indies* is wholly lost, their Settlements there depened upon their Provinces here, they cannot live there by themselves without a *European* Dependance; and perhaps when their People in *Europe* are transplanted to their *Indian* Colonies, they may become like an overgrown Liver, too big for the Body natural, and tending to the Consumption of the whole *Compositum*.

I know our Considerer will here say, it is as much the Interest of *England* to ingage in a Confederacy, to preserve the Ballance of *Europe*; and since the Design is Religious, in order to extirpate the *Northern* Heresy, it is as much our business as any Bodys to prevent the growing Powers of *France* and *Spain*.

Was not our Island moated round, and our Trenches fill'd by the Ocean, fortify'd with good and defensible Ships, our danger would be great: but since we are placed by God and Nature by our selves, free from the Bolts and Thunder of destroying Powers; since our danger is at a distance, and the watry Element is our Barrier; we do but tempt Providence by approaching Dangers, and cannot expect the Blessing of God upon our Enterprises: he that attempts the Mouth of a Cannon when he has no occasion so to do, shows but a Bull-dog Bravery, which calls his Judgment in question. Wise Men encounter those dangers with resolution,

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which they cannot shun by Chance ; and Reason and Nature teach Mankind to be upon the defensive Part. The Wild Beasts of the Forest ravage and offend one another, but rational Creatures only defend themselves ; he that strikes the first Blow is on all accounts the Aggressor, and he that defends himself has allways Justice on his side. If the *French* King or the King of *Spain* assaults us, 'tis contrary to the Nature of an *Englishman* to take a Blow ; and on such an occasion, I make no question but our Nation will defend themselves to the utmost.

But says our Author, the *Dutch* have done us a late kindness in the Revolution, and we are their Debtors, since they help'd us in our time of need, in rescuing of us from Slavery.

'Tis true, the *Dutch* were instrumental in the Revolution, and helpt bring to pass what the Nation could have done without their assistance if they had pleas'd : But where lyes the obligation ? were they nor pay'd 600000*l.* for the bare Expedition ? and were their Forces we had in our Service in *Ireland* sent home without their Pay ? Have not by this means many of them been naturaliz'd, and got a Right to our Country ? Are not many of them ennobl'd, and many inferior Persons of that Country possess'd with Places of Trust and Profit ? Wherein then are we so much beholden ? what did the *English* get in the late Wars in *Flanders*, but the advantage of spending their Mony and losing their Lives in other Peoples Quarrels ? And what have we got by the Peace ? why e'en two or three fine Embassys to *Paris*, where we have huff'd, look'd big, and been insulted by King *James* : by it we have procured a Treaty of Partition, which brings us into a
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new War, and that brings us into new Taxes; and is this an Advantage to the good People of *England*? let any Man judg.

But says our foolish Treaty-monger, We must join with the *Dutch*: I'll leave that to the Parliament, who best know what is the true Interest of the good People of *England*, having no Authority from Court or Country to do otherwise; tho' the Author is the Herald of his Country, and proclaims War against whom he pleases. But I may presume to beg one favour of the Court, that's no Treason nor unmannerly; we supplicate Heaven without a crime, and the only thing I desire is, That in the next Treaty we may have no private Articles; that no Foreigner, but Natives of old *England*, may be the Plenipotentiaries; that if we employ any Forces in this Quarrel (for I don't determine the Point) the People we lend them to, may pay them after the same manner as we did the Foreign Troops in our Service during the late War; tho' I cannot but be of the Opinion with several honest *Englishmen*, that in case of any Emergence, the Interest of *England* is chiefly to take care of their Sea Affairs; the Genius of the Nation runs in that Channel, and its Liberties are in no danger thereby, which cannot be said of a standing Army.

I would not have any misunderstand me, and think that I am an Enemy to the *Dutch*, but quite contrary; and am as much for preserving the Ballance of *Europe* as any Man can be: but I cannot believe we are so much beholden to the *Dutch* as our Author insinuates; the *Dutch* owed us as good a turn as that of the Revolution, since we have so long allow'd them to fish in our Seas without interruption, not to mention the great

great obligation we laid upon them in Queen Elizabeth's days, who rais'd 'em to what they are, and without whose Assistance they could never have been a free State; nor yet the easy Terms (tho dishonourable to our Nation) upon which they had their Cautionary Towns deliver'd up by King James I; and if now they are reduc'd to a greater necessity than we were some time ago, they'l as freely be at the charge of the Assistance as we were then.

I hope no Man will be angry with me for laying the Child at the door of the proper Parent; for who should keep it but the Parish where it was born?

Nor do I espouse any Party but that of my Country; when our Author writes as impudently for a Faction, as if his Book came into the World, as *Salmasius* his *Defensio Regia* did against *Milton*, *Sumptibus Regiis*.



FINIS.

